

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2008-196-E - ORDER NO. 2008-570  
AUGUST 19, 2008

IN RE: Combined Application of South Carolina	)	ORDER ON HEARING
Electric and Gas Company for a Certificate	)	
of Environmental Compatibility and Public	)	
Convenience and Necessity and for a Base	)	
Load Review Order for the Construction and	)	
Operation of a Nuclear Facility in	)	
Jenkinsville, South Carolina	)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") on the May 30, 2008 Petition ("the Petition") of South Carolina Electric & Gas Company ("SCE&G" or "the Company") for an order permitting commencement of construction activities at the Jenkinsville, South Carolina site of the new nuclear units proposed by the Company. The Company specifically invokes S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-33-110(7) (1976) in its Petition requesting permission to proceed with initial clearing, excavation, dredging, and construction for the project. The statute explicitly provides that if such permission is granted, the Company would proceed at its own risk, and that the Commission's permission to proceed shall not in any way indicate approval by the Commission of the proposed site or facility. S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-33-110(7) (1976). Accordingly, the Petition now before us has no bearing on the ultimate decision as to whether the siting and construction of the proposed nuclear power units will be approved.

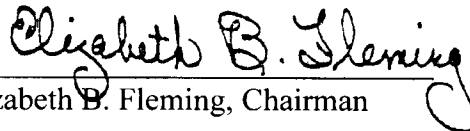
The Friends of the Earth (“FOE”) organization has informed this Commission that it intends to intervene in this Docket, and that it would like to be heard specifically with regard to this Petition. FOE has requested that we delay consideration of this Petition until our final hearing on the merits of this case, which is scheduled for October 27, 2008.

After due consideration, although we do believe that FOE and any other Intervenor in this case should have the opportunity to be heard on this matter, we also believe that the ruling should not be unreasonably delayed, and, in fact, that this Commission should rule on the Petition as soon as possible.

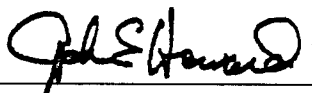
Accordingly, the Commission Staff is instructed to schedule a public hearing on the Petition as soon as possible following the August 20, 2008 deadline for intervention in this Docket.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Elizabeth B. Fleming, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
John E. Howard, Vice Chairman  
(SEAL)